

CONTACT

The Official Newsletter of the Theatre Arts Guild

Canada's Oldest Continually Operating Community Theatre

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The Pond Playhouse
6 Parkhill Rd. Halifax NS
www.tagtheatre.com
(902) 477 2663



NEXT AT TAG

The Frog Prince

November 24th to December 10th

Have you ever “pond”ered this question: The Frog Prince...how did THAT happen? Brenda Tyedmers and I certainly did. And so began our journey through the forests of the Kingdom of Jollimore where we discovered some Royal Family secrets, breadcrumbs and broccoli, and a pair of damp meggings...

Here is what we know so far:

It is just days until the crowning of the next King of the Kingdom of Jollimore and Queen B is buzzing about the last details of the biggest party EVER! Her sons, Max and Heinrich, have very different views about what is best for the citizenry, but their Uncle Mikey is quite sure HE knows what will make him...I mean...everyone...happy.

Here are some questions:

Will the coronation feast be prepared on time? Will Justin Bieber sing the Royal Anthem? Will the mystery of the disappearing

breadcrumbs ever be solved? Will the super-talented cast ever grow tired of an audience booing and cheering? And will the stage manager actually eat any members of “The Public” who step on the stage?

The answers can only be found onstage at the Theatre Arts Guild’s production of The Frog Prince: A Webbed Pantomime.

It is fun? Is it fabulous? Is it family-friendly? You better be-ribbit!!

- Cheryl Theriault, Director

P.S. The answers can also be found in the brains of Brenda and myself but, seriously, it is WAY less messy to just see it on the stage!

Tickets on Sale
NOW!!

TAG Ticket Prices

\$15 Members/Seniors/Students

\$18 Non-Members

Note: TAG prices include all Ticket Atlantic service fees

Buy Your Tickets

- At the 23 participating Atlantic Superstore outlets
- By Phone (902) 451 1221
- At the door (subject to availability)
- Online at www.ticketatlantic.com
- Ticket Atlantic Box Office

November/December 2016 Contact

Mailing Address: Theatre Arts Guild 287 Lacewood Dr. Unit 103 Suite 412 Halifax NS B3M 3Y7

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Another beautiful summer over! We have been spoiled with dry, warm autumn weather and the stunning colours of Maritime foliage. We now must dig out the winter gloves, prepare ourselves for cooler days and all things peppermint flavoured. The theatre has been busy preparing for an annual tradition...the famous TAG Panto! We invite you to journey with us through the forests of the "Kingdom of Jollimore" in our next production of The Frog Prince: A Webbed Pantomime. This is an original script written by Cheryl Theriault and Brenda Tyedmer. Both of these ladies have been members of TAG for many years and have

collaborated on several plays together, including the 2007 production of Jack and the Beans Talk - A Genetically Modified Fairy Tale. A very talented cast and crew are hard at work in rehearsals to prepare for this wonderful family production. Most of you know the drill, but for those of you who may be new to the game: get ready to cheer the goodies, boo the baddies, sing along, and have a good time! Tickets are on sale now and we typically sell out quickly, so avoid disappointment and get yours soon.

Our season opener, The Attic, the Pearls and Three Fine Girls, recently finished their run

of performances. I extend my congratulations and a thank you to the entire cast and crew for their work on this challenging production, and to all the volunteers who helped at the bar or with Front of House duties.

There is never a dull moment at the Pond Playhouse and our stage is not vacant for long. Following the Panto, our exciting season continues with an adaptation of Jane Austen's Pride and Prejudice. The deadline is approaching for submissions for the Playwrights @ TAG event and stay tuned for more news about the Variety Night.

- Rayna Smith-Camp, President

AUDITIONS

Pride and Prejudice

Pride and Prejudice

Director: Gisela O'Brien

Performance Dates: **March 16th to April 8th 2017**

Auditions: **Sunday Dec. 11th, 1pm - 4pm & Monday Dec. 12th, 7pm - 9pm**

at The Pond Playhouse, 6 Parkhill Rd.

The Theatre Arts Guild is calling for auditions for Pride and Prejudice - the timeless classic, universally acknowledging that "a single man in possession of a good fortune must be in want of a wife". Canadian playwright Janet Munsil has adapted Jane Austen's tale of men, women, money and manners for the stage.

We are looking for 16 characters – 5 of these being the Bennet sisters, plus their parents and their aunt and uncle, the Gardiners. Then we have the eligible gentlemen and their families and attachments. All in all, 10 women and 6 men.

We will be requesting that you read from the play; it is not necessary to prepare a piece in advance.

If you need more information please get in touch with our Stage Manager, Cathy McAuley (cathy@pmcauley.com) or the Director, Gisela O'Brien (gobrien@dal.ca).



PLAYWRIGHTS @ TAG & THE TAG VARIETY NIGHT

Playwrights @ TAG is a fun filled non-competitive festival providing members with the chance to experience and enjoy the thrill and agony of writing a script and see it performed for an audience.

No prior experience is necessary and no prizes or adjudication will occur.

This will be our third installment of Playwrights @TAG. Most of the plays presented in this unique event have gone on to perform in other festivals such as The Liverpool International Theatre Festival and The Atlantic Fringe Festival. The purpose of everything we do at Theatre Arts Guild is to have fun. The process of Playwrights @ TAG has become a wonderful experience for everyone involved.

So, if you always wanted to try your hand at writing or have an idea for a story and want to see it on stage, don't hesitate. Give it a try!

Important Dates:

Submission Deadline: November 30, 2016

Draft of Completed Script: February 4, 2017

Auditions & Rehearsals: To Be Determined

Production Dates: April 21 and 22, 2017

How to Submit:

WHEN: November 30th, 2016

HOW: Submit a PDF or word document to Angela Butler by email at executive-producer@tagtheatre.com

For more information, contact Angela Butler at executive-producer@tagtheatre.com

Saturday January 21, 2017

TAG's Variety Show is a well-organized but informal evening to let down your hair and join the fun.

Each act has up to 6 minutes to entertain our friendly audience of TAG members and their friends. Have fun with us by offering your talents. Singers, dancers, comedians, actors, story tellers, magicians, jugglers, mimes, musicians -- start planning your entry now. Variety Night will take place Sat. Jan 21, 2017 at 8 p.m. at the Pond Playhouse. Mark your calendars now.

To put your name on the list to perform, contact the Producer Bill VanGorder at billvangorder@eastlink.ca or 902 453 4077.

Calling All Directors!

With the first show of the 2016-17 season about to open, it's time to start working on plans for the 2017-2018 Season. I encourage all interested directors to submit scripts for next season. There are four slots available: September 2017, March-April 2018, June 2018 and the 2017 Holiday Pantomime. Please indicate a time slot preference if possible. Scripts can be dropped off at the Pond Playhouse or to me directly. For more information, contact

Esther VanGorder, Artistic Director.
artistic-director@TAGTheatre.com

REMINDER OF PARKING RULES AT TAG

Limited parking is available at the Pond Playhouse for our TAG audience. In addition, cars may park (carefully) along the SOUTH side of Parkhill Road (the opposite side of the street from the Pond Playhouse). Cars are not allowed to park on the north side (close to the Pond Playhouse) of the street. Parking is also available on Forward Ave (off Williams Lake) and there is a parking lot at the Frog Pond Trail off Purcell's Cove Rd.

ALL CREATURES GREAT AND SMALL

Expanding Your Theatre Vocabulary - the 64th in a continuing series

If I asked you to name your favourite nursery rhyme or fairy tale (both rich sources for traditional pantomimes), what would you choose? Would it be *Puss in Boots*, *The Three Little Pigs*, *Little Red Riding-Hood*, *Goldilocks and the Three Bears*, *Little Bo-Peep*? Animals, animals and more animals!

Animals have been a staple component of story-telling, particularly stories intended for children, for a very long time. We all know Aesop's fable of *The Tortoise and the Hare*. In a race between the two, the hare, confident of his greater speed and agility, falls asleep on the path, while the tortoise plods steadily along and crosses the finish line as the winner. Aesop (620-564 BCE) is actually describing an aspect of human existence, which plays out with animal characters and the ending is usually an unfortunate one – that is, unfortunate decisions lead to unfortunate consequences. The Greek writer used creatures familiar to his readers – horses, foxes, dogs and birds. Interestingly, very few of his stories concern reptiles and those about frogs portray the species as arrogant, boastful and wishing to improve their station in life.

Just as Aesop made connection with his readers by using familiar animals and landscapes, the same can be seen in the work of the German brothers Wilhelm and Jacob Grimm. The brothers were concerned that many folk tales and legends, which began as oral traditions handed down from generation to generation, were being lost. Their aim was to collect these, not only as a source for reading

enjoyment, but for what the tales indicated about the country, its history and its people. *Kinder- und Hausmärchen*, containing 86 folk tales, was published in 1812 and was an instant success. The animals of the stories were of the woods – bears, deer, rabbits and of course wolves! Not all of the animals are friendly and this is deliberate. Aesop's fables have a moral and are intended to present a situation from which a lesson may be learned. The Grimms' tales, although more extensive, also have something to teach us – A certain type of behaviour is to be encouraged. Stupid, unkind behaviour will not go unpunished and the outcome is often harsh. Charles Perrault, the 17th century French anthologist whose collection of fairy tales appeared in 1697 and were incorporated by the Grimm brothers into later editions of their work, wrote a tale called *Diamonds and Toads*. The daughter in this story (who has the misfortune to insult a fairy) suffers the consequence of having a toad or snake fall out of her mouth whenever she speaks.

A frog or a toad obviously cannot instill the fear that a bear or a wolf can. But their less-than-pleasant appearance and clammy skin means that, in the written fairy tale record, they do not fare well. In the Aarne-Thompson-Uther classification scheme, published in 1910 and an examination of thousands of tales from Europe and the Near East, *Der Froschkönig* belongs in category 440, stories of couples where the male suitor is a supernatural being – or someone with a slimy, green, outside!

Now, having given you the background, just forget everything you've read, because Cheryl Theriault and Brenda Tyedmers have put a whole new spin on this old tale. Yes, there's a frog and yes, there's a princess and yes, you can be sure there's a whole lot of fun for the actors and audience alike! - Judy Reade

Community Notes

Dartmouth Players presents:

The Rocky Horror Show

Visit www.dartmouthplayers.ns.ca or call 465-PLAY for more info

Bedford Players presents:

Cemetery Club

Visit www.bedfordplayers.ns.ca or call 832-3300 for more info

Coming Soon

Return of the TAG Variety Show

January 21st 2017

Pride and Prejudice

Mar. 16th to Apr. 5th 2017

A new, Canadian adaptation of the Jane Austin classic.